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FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
EXERCISES

IT was deemed fitting by the Board of Trustees that the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Museum on April 13, 1870, should be marked by exercises commemorative of the event, of the men whose vision brought it about, of the long line of Trustees to whose wisdom the conduct of its affairs has been entrusted, and of the Benefactors whose munificence has made the growth of the half century possible. To this end a meeting was held on Tuesday, May 18, at which addresses were made by Hon. Francis D. Gallatin, Commissioner of Parks, representing the City of New York; John H. Finley, President of the University of the State of New York, on behalf of the Governor; Morris Gray, President of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts; Charles L. Hutchinson, President of the Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois; and the President of the Museum, Robert W. de Forest, who presided.

Following these exercises, which took place in the Lecture Hall, the audience adjourned to the entrance hall where, at the foot of the main staircase, an address was delivered by the First Vice President, Elihu Root, memorializing the Founders and Benefactors of the Museum, preceding the unveiling of two marble tablets inscribed with their names.

Among those present on this occasion were representatives of the civic and educational institutions of the City and State, ten presidents and seventeen directors of other art museums, lenders to the anniversary exhibition, with other distinguished guests, and the Trustees, Fellows of the Corporation, and Staff of the Metropolitan Museum.

A volume with a record of the proceedings, the addresses of the day, and an account of the development of the Museum during the period since the publication of the History of the Museum in 1913, will be issued in the autumn. In this issue of the BULLETIN the address of the President of the Museum is printed in full, and other addresses will follow as space permits.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
MEMORABILIA

THE story of an institution may be read in its documents, letters, circulars, announcements, and other printed or written papers issued by it from time to time. With this fact in mind, a group of such Museum material from the inception of the idea of its foundation to the present time, with likenesses of the men who have been connected with its history, has been brought together in chronological order in the Room of Recent Accessions. Such a visual demonstration of the material from which the history is written serves to impress even the casual observer with the painstaking quality of the building-up process, and to give respect for the labor of the past. It serves, also, to recall, as is fitting at this time, the men whose forethought, energy, and devotion have made the Museum what it is today.

A brief synopsis of the principal events in the growth of the Museum has been brought together in a pamphlet entitled a "Review of Fifty Years' Development," which may be used as an outline in following the exhibition of the collection of memorabilia.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MUSEUM
AN ADDRESS BY ROBERT W.
DE FOREST, PRESIDENT

FIFTY years ago The Metropolitan Museum of Art existed only as the vision of a group of public-spirited persons—artists, clergymen, lawyers, men of affairs. It was fitting that a poet, William Cullen Bryant, should have presided at the meeting which first made their vision articulate.

This vision, unlike most dreams, had clear definition. It embodied a museum to contain objects illustrative of "all the arts, whether industrial, educational, or recreative;" a museum "to encourage and develop the study of the fine arts and the application of arts to manufactures and practical life."

But however clearly defined, it was then only a vision. Those dreamers had "no